

REMARKS

Claims 1-101 were previously pending in the above-referenced application. Applicants have amended claims 1-3, 57-58, 62-63, 67-68 and 72-77, 79, 86 and 92-98. With the amendments herein, claims 1-101 are currently pending, with claims 4-56 having been withdrawn as being drawn to a nonelected group two. Each of the amendments is supported by the specification at paragraphs 343-355.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112:

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 57, 58, 62, 63, 67, 68, 75, 76, 77, 78, 82 and 86 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Applicants has amended claims 3, 57-58, 62-63, 67-68, 75-77, 82 and 86. As such Applicants believe that the Examiner's grounds for rejection of these claims is no longer applicable. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejection of these claims.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 57-74 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,031,527) in view of Bankart et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,575,628).

Ishikawa does not teach or suggest "identifying at least one notch of the at least one outline wherein said notch is identified by determining a plurality of turn points on the outline, wherein the distance between a first turn point and a second turn point is less than a predetermined maximum value and at least a predetermined minimum value," as recited in claims 1 and 72, to "identify at least one notch of the at least one outline wherein said notch is identified by determining a plurality of turn points on the outline, wherein the distance between a first turn point and a second turn point is less than a predetermined maximum value and at least a predetermined minimum value," as recited in claims 2 and 73, "a third module which, when executed, identifies at least one corner having a relatively large average curvature of the at least

one outline wherein said corner is identified by calculating the curvature of the outline in a neighborhood of a point on the outline and determining whether the curvature is at least a pre-defined minimum value, and identifies at least one notch of the at least one outline wherein said notch is identified by determining a plurality of turn points on the outline, wherein the distance between a first turn point and a second turn point is less than a predetermined maximum value and at least a predetermined minimum value,” as recited in claim 3, or “a third module which, when executed, identifies at least one notch of the at least one outline wherein said notch is identified by determining a plurality of curvatures, wherein each of the plurality of turn points on the outline, wherein the distance between a first turn point and a second turn point is less than a predetermined maximum value and at least a predetermined minimum value,” as recited in claim 74 of the present application.

While Ishikawa describes that “internal curves” appear in a raster image as curves (col. 2, lines 65-66) and that “holes” on the pattern can be found by finding a black object inside a non-black object (col. 9, lines 63-64), this is very different than identifies, identify or identifying “at least one notch of the at least one outline wherein said notch is identified by determining a plurality of turn points on the outline, wherein the distance between a first turn point and a second turn point is less than a predetermined maximum value and at least a predetermined minimum value,” as recited in claims 1-3 and 72-74 of the present application.

Bankart does not teach or suggest “identifying at least one notch of the at least one outline wherein said notch is identified by determining a plurality of turn points on the outline, wherein the distance between a first turn point and a second turn point is less than a predetermined maximum value and at least a predetermined minimum value,” as recited in claims 1 and 72, to “identify at least one notch of the at least one outline wherein said notch is identified by determining a plurality of turn points on the outline, wherein the distance between a first turn point and a second turn point is less than a predetermined maximum value and at least a predetermined minimum value,” as recited in claims 2 and 73, “a third module which, when executed, identifies at least one corner having a relatively large average curvature of the at least one outline wherein said corner is identified by calculating the curvature of the outline in a neighborhood of a point on the outline and determining whether the curvature is at least a pre-defined minimum value, and identifies at least one notch of the at least one outline wherein said

notch is identified by determining a plurality of turn points on the outline, wherein the distance between a first turn point and a second turn point is less than a predetermined maximum value and at least a predetermined minimum value,” as recited in claim 3, or “a third module which, when executed, identifies at least one notch of the at least one outline wherein said notch is identified by determining a plurality of curvatures, wherein each of the plurality of turn points on the outline, wherein the distance between a first turn point and a second turn point is less than a predetermined maximum value and at least a predetermined minimum value,” as recited in claim 74 of the present application. Therefore, Ishikawa and Bankart either alone or in any known combination do not make obvious the claims according to the present application.

Because independent claims 1-3 and 72-74 are not obvious over Ishikawa and Bankart, either alone or in any known combination, therefore, dependent claims 57-59, 62-64, 67-69 and 75-89 cannot be obvious.

With respect to claims 90-101, the Examiner relies on the arguments stated with respect to the rejection of claim 1-3 and 57-89. However, as these claims recite a different element, i.e., “a grain line wherein said grain line is identified by determining a line within the at least one outline that is longest and straightest,” the Examiner’s reliance on his earlier analysis and rejection is misplaced. The Examiner’s rejection is not supported by the references to Ishikawa and Bankart which do, either alone or in any known combination, teach or suggest “identifying a grain line wherein said grain line is identified by determining a line within the at least one outline that is longest and straightest,” as recited in claim 90, a processing arrangement configured to “identify a grain line wherein said grain line is identified by determining a line within the at least one outline that is longest and straightest,” as recited in claim 91, or “a third module which, when executed, identifies a grain line wherein said grain line is identified by determining a line within the at least one outline that is longest and straightest,” as recited in claim 92 of the present invention.

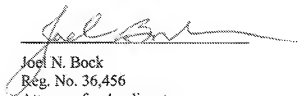
Because independent claims 90-92 are not obvious over Ishikawa and Bankart, either alone or in any known combination, therefore, dependent claims 93-101 cannot be obvious.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, each of claims 1-3 and 57-101 of the above referenced application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner at the earliest convenience issue a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 13, 2007



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